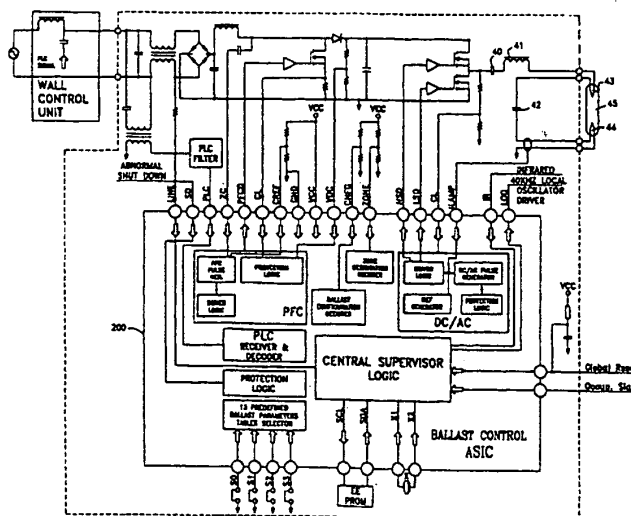




INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁷ : H05B 41/00		A2	(11) International Publication Number: WO 00/35252
			(43) International Publication Date: 15 June 2000 (15.06.00)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/IB99/02087		(81) Designated States: CN, IN, JP, US, European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE).	
(22) International Filing Date: 7 December 1999 (07.12.99)			
(30) Priority Data: 60/111,296 7 December 1998 (07.12.98) US 60/111,235 7 December 1998 (07.12.98) US 60/111,302 7 December 1998 (07.12.98) US 60/111,322 7 December 1998 (07.12.98) US 60/111,216 7 December 1998 (07.12.98) US		Published Without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report.	
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(54) Title: DIGITAL POWER CONTROLLER

(57) Abstract

A power controller for fluorescent lamp dimming is disclosed, using all digital internal and external programmable controls. A specific ASIC is described. A gate array and microcomputer share parallel functions with fast sub-functions carried out by the gate array and slower sub-functions carried out by a micro-processor. Circuits are provided for automatic shut down when a high frequency ground fault is detected; for connecting the filaments of gas discharge lamps in a series/parallel circuit; for driving the load as close to resonance as possible but in an inductive mode; and for developing a dead time between high side and low side switches which is related to transformer current, switch current, bridge voltage or bridge voltage dv/dt .